

# Subsidized Child Care Assistance Makes a Difference for Children and Communities

## All North Carolina

### SFY 2015-2016

#### **What Service is Needed:**

##### **Subsidized Child Care Assistance**

- Helps parents pay for child care so they can work or attend school
- Provides information to parents about how to choose a safe, quality child care arrangement
- Funded by a mixture of state (20%) and federal dollars (80%)

##### **North Carolina County Facts**

- 397,982 children are potentially eligible for subsidized child care assistance. Children under age 0-5 whose Parent(s) are working and whose family income is at or below the 200% federal poverty level or children 6-11 whose family income is at or below 133% FPL.<sup>1</sup>
- \$ 377,934,047 is currently available to serve eligible children.<sup>2</sup>
- Currently 73,230 children are receiving subsidized child care assistance. This represents 18% of all potentially eligible children.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Based upon data from the 2008 – 2012 American Community Survey data and July 2016 Population by Age from the North Carolina State Data.

<sup>2</sup>Includes Non-Smart Start and Smart Start final allocations (SFY 2015-16) and children served (during 5/16)

##### **Key Facts about Subsidized Child Care Assistance**

- Approximately 71,564 children per month receive subsidized child care assistance
- 88% of the children are receiving assistance because their parents are employed
- 79% of the families receiving assistance earn less than \$25,000 per year
- Parents pay a portion of the child care cost by paying 10% of their income as a parent fee

#### **The Benefits:**

##### **For Families**

- Helps parents to work and attend school
- Provides a safe setting for children
- Helps children to be better prepared for school
- Having a good early childhood education experience helps children to be successful in language, math and social skills in school

##### **For the Community**

- Working families put a large amount of money back into the local economy and tax system through their employment, earnings and purchase of child care.
- The cost of child care subsidy services is offset by the working families' ability to pay taxes.
- Parents with stable child care arrangements are more focused on the job and make better employees.
- Receiving subsidized child care assistance offers children a chance to receive an early childhood education which leads to increased success in school and less costs to the community and state in terms of remedial service.